

INTERACTIVE STRATEGIES THAT SUPPORT CHILDREN'S LANGUAGE AND EARLY LITERACY

1. Wait time-encourage a child to initiate verbally by waiting for him/her to speak. Become comfortable with long pauses during your conversations. When a child takes a turn, allow him/her time to make complete responses.
2. Follow a child's lead-focus on the topic a child wants to talk about, not yours.
3. Authentic questions-avoid asking "test questions" (questions you know the answer to) and yes/no questions.
4. Expansion-comment on what a child has said by repeating using his/her words and adding more words (e.g., *Child: That's a bear. Adult: That's a big, brown bear*).
5. Self-talk, parallel talk-use self-talk to state what you are doing, thinking, or feeling; use parallel talk to state what a child is doing, thinking, or feeling.
6. Positioning-put yourself in a position in which you are on the same level and face-to-face with a child when you are talking or playing.
7. Decontextualization-use language beyond the here and now. Relate the conversation or story content and characters to real-life experiences.
8. Print referencing -draw attention to print by pointing to a word or combination of words as you say them.
9. "Priming the pump"-explore specific vocabulary or story content prior to reading.
10. Chant, rhyme, or "fill in the word" activities during storybook reading.
11. Predicting -"what do you think will happen next?" "Oh oh!" "What's coming next?"
12. Creating alternatives -"what would happen if ... ?"
13. Story retelling or story re-enactment with props.
14. Integrate the story into other aspects of daily life.

Weis (1981), Moore (1997), Justice & Pence (2005), Dickinson & Tabors (2001)

THE IMPACT OF QUESTIONS

The mere act of asking a child a question raises the anxiety level of the child.

Bruce D. Perry, MD, Ph.D.

Asking too many or some types of questions can restrict rather than support a child's language and learning.

Stone (1993)

Types of questions:

Open - An open question can be answered in a variety of ways.

Closed - A closed question is answered by yes/no or one word/ short response.

'Authentic - An authentic or sincere question is one that is asked to genuinely seek information not already known.

Test - A test question requests information which the person asking already knows.

Examples of question types:

	Open	Closed
Authentic, Genuine, Sincere	What do you think is going to happen next in the story?	What is your favorite Book?
Test	What did you see at the zoo? (Assuming the person asking was at the zoo with the child)	What color is the grass?